



Date: November 5, 2013

To: Thomas J. Bonfield – City Manager
Through: W. Bowman Ferguson – Deputy City Manager
From: Marvin G. Williams – Public Works Director
Subject: Little Lick Creek Watershed Improvement Plan

Executive Summary

The Stormwater Division is responsible for developing watershed plans for all of Durham's watersheds as required by its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Stormwater Permit (NCS000249). Many of Durham's waterways are currently impaired due to failure to meet water quality standards for one or more parameters (bacteria, sediment, nutrient enrichment and biological diversity). This is common for streams in urban areas. Watershed plans are an assessment and a plan for improving water quality in a watershed. This project addresses Little Lick Creek which flows into Falls Lake and is subject to the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy which requires reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus loading to the lake from existing development. Watershed plans are an essential first step to restoring degraded watersheds and identifying projects and strategies to meet Falls' requirements. The watershed plans will need to be periodically revisited to update them to current conditions and regulations.

The Little Lick Creek watershed plan will involve planning, conducting public meetings, assessment of current watershed conditions, formulation of watershed restoration goals, development of watershed restoration recommendations, identification of stormwater retrofit/restoration opportunities, water quality modeling, watershed modeling, hydraulic/hydrologic modeling, engineering, design, analysis, cost estimates, surveying, data collection, preliminary plans and construction plans for stormwater projects. Requests for proposals were solicited for professional watershed planning and design services for the Little Lick Creek watershed. Proposals were received from eight firms. The review committee selected three firms for interviews. Based on competence and experience, in accordance with G.S. 143-64.31, the committee selected Wildlands, Inc.

Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a contract for Little Lick Creek Watershed Professional Planning and Design Services with Wildlands, Inc. in an amount of \$1,441,285; establish a contingency fund in the amount of \$158,715 (11%); and authorize the City Manager to negotiate change

orders provided the that the cost of all change orders does not exceed \$158,715 and the total project cost does not exceed \$1,600,000.

Background

Watershed plans are needed to restore Durham's waterways. Streams in Durham are impaired for one or more parameters (bacteria, dissolved oxygen, sediment, turbidity, nutrient enrichment, and biological diversity). Watershed plans are an assessment and a plan for improving water quality in a watershed. Watershed planning is a requirement of the City's NPDES Municipal Stormwater permit and is in the NCDENR draft Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy existing development model plan. The project will help to identify and model potential projects that will help in reducing nitrogen and phosphorus loading to Falls Lake. The City is responsible for its waterways meeting water quality standards. The City is responsible for monitoring and evaluating progress toward meeting water quality standards and revising programs as needed to meet those standards. Little Lick Creek is on the State 303(d) list of impaired streams due to low dissolved oxygen and turbidity. Watershed plans are also a requirement for the City to receive grant funds or partner with the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sponsored grants such as 319 grants for watershed restoration projects. The watershed plans for Ellerbe, Third Fork, Northeast and Crooked Creeks are completed, but will need to be updated in the future to reflect current field conditions and regulatory issues. Future watershed planning efforts in the City of Durham will include the study of the Eno River and tributaries, New Hope Creek, Stirrup Iron Creek and updates to the local watershed plan for Lick Creek.

Issues and Analysis

If the City Council does not authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute this contract, the City will fall farther behind in its requirements to complete watershed planning and the development and implementation of water quality recovery plans. Failure to develop and implement watershed planning may result in violations of the City's NPDES municipal stormwater permit.

Alternatives

The City could develop watershed plans by hiring additional staff. This would involve hiring a large number of additional staff over a very short period of time in order to complete the plans within the required timeframes.

Financial Impact

This project is budgeted for in the adopted Capital Improvements Project Ordinance (#14466) for Watershed Planning and Design and Stormwater Retrofitting Professional Design Services from the following accounts:

4300L045-725000-LK102:	\$1,473,373.08
4300L045-725000-LK109:	\$ 126,626.92
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$1,600,000.00</u>

SDBE Summary

The Equal Opportunity/Equity Assurance Department has reviewed the proposal submitted by Wildlands, Inc., and determined that they are in compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting. The goals for this project are MSDBE 2% and WSDBE 2%.

SDBE Requirements

Wildlands will subcontract to the following certified firms:

Firm	ID	City/State	Amount	% of Contract
Planners for Environmental Quality, Inc.	MSDBE	Union City, GA	\$77,600	5.3
CH Engineering, PLLC	WSDBE	Raleigh, NC	\$47,600	3.3

The goals for this project are MSDBE 2% and WSDBE 2%. The MSDBE and WSDBE goals were exceeded.

Workforce Statistics

The workforce statistics for Wildlands, Inc., Raleigh, North Carolina are as follows:

Total Workforce	6	
Total Females	1	17%
Total Males	5	83%
Black Males	0	0%
White Males	5	83%
Other Males	0	0%
Black Females	0	0%
White Females	1	17%
Other Females	0	0%